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PREFACE TO HETEROCYCLES ISSUE HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR KAORU FUJI

It is my great pleasure and honor to celebrate Dr. Kaoru Fuji, the Emeritus Professor of Kyoto University, on the occasion of his 80th birthday, San-Ju in Japanese traditional celebration.

Professor Fuji was born on February 13, 1939 at Osaka. After graduating from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kyoto University in 1961, he worked at Shionogi Pharmaceutical Company for one year. Then, he entered the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Kyoto University, and received his Ph.D. under the supervision of late Professor Eiichi Fujita in 1970. He was appointed an assistant professor of Professor Fujita's laboratory at the Institute of Chemical Research, Kyoto University in 1967. He was promoted to be an associate professor in 1973, and a full professor in 1983. After retirement from Kyoto University in 2002, he was appointed a visiting professor of Kyoto Pharmaceutical University and also a scientific advisor of Otsuka Pharmaceutical Company. In 2004, he moved to Hiroshima International University as the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and greatly contributed to the development of the University.

Professor Fuji's scientific achievements involve isolation and total synthesis of alkaloids such as lythranidine, bond cleavage reactions based on a hard acid and soft nucleophile system, asymmetric nitroolefination via addition elimination process, asymmetric synthesis employing 2,2'-, and 8,8'-binol derivatives, enolate chemistry via memory of chirality, asymmetric Wittig-type reaction, and coloring molecular recognition with phenolphthalein-type host molecules. For his outstanding scientific achievements, he was awarded the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan Award for Young Scientists in 1980 and the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan Award in 1998. Professor Fuji's academic activities include performing Editor-in-Chief of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Bulletin in 1997-2000, Editorial Board of Organic Letter in 1999-2002, President of Kansai Branch of the Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan in 1996, and Vice President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan.

I would like to mention my personal memories on Professor Fuji and Mrs. Chizuko Fuji. When I was a graduate student at Professor Eiichi Fujita's laboratory, Professor Fuji (associate professor at that time) was a direct supervisor for me. Professor Fuji kindly invited students occasionally to his home to serve pickles and rice (ochazuke) and also a bath. I visited his home almost every week, and enjoy "ochazuke" and taking a bath. Especially, pickles made from eggplant, nasu-no-asazuke, tasted exquisitely. Mrs. Fuji is an expert for preparing the pickles. Their warm treatment for students was obviously a driving force for us to concentrate on research and daily experiments. Since most of the students did not have bath and/or

shower facilities at their apartments in those days (~1985), taking a bath at Professor Fuji's home was important refreshment for many students. A considerable number of researchers graduated from his laboratory have been promoted to be full professors in academia. His warm personality and Mrs. Fuji's assistance were the obviously the reasons for their high scientific activities.

On behalf of the graduates, I sincerely thank Professor Fuji and Mrs. Fuji for their warm-hearted supports for us, and wish Professor Fuji's long and happy life together with Chizuko-san.



Professor Kaoru Fuji and Mrs. Chizuko Fuji at home on September, 2019 (left), and at a restaurant in Mampukuji-temple on April, 2011 (right)

Takeo Kawabata

Professor

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Takeo Kawabata was born in 1955 in Osaka, Japan. He received his Ph.D. degree in 1983 from Kyoto University under the supervision of Professor Eiichi Fujita. After working as a postdoctoral fellow with Professor Paul A. Grieco at Indiana University (1983-1985), he joined Sagami Chemical Research Center as a researcher. He was appointed an assistant professor at Professor Fuji's group at Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University in 1989, and promoted to be an associate professor in 1998, then a full professor in 2004. His research interests include site-selective molecular transformation, asymmetric synthesis of supramolecules, and enolate chemistry with dynamic molecular chirality.